

ENGRAVED FOOT-PRINTS LINKS OF AMAS, HOPIS AND ABORIGINES

by

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Summary

A lot of engraved foot-prints have been found together with rock art at many places in the world. In the United States of America, the Loop Canyon, Arizona has various kinds of engraved foot-prints (from small ones to bigger ones) on rock walls along the canyon, while a researching group led by a professor of Washington University, chanced to see a big man or a monster-like being walking away in the bush leaving foot-marks as big as 30 inches long on the swamp. At the Waikoloa King's Trail field, Big Island of Hawaii, we see various kinds of engraved foot-prints on lava rocks, and similar ones can be seen in Kyushu island, Japan and at the top of Mt. Haran, Nynxia, China. Folklores and legends in the Far East tell that giants people and very small people who excelled in stone-work used to live, while the Hopi (Arizona) and the Mihunemia (Hawaii) have a similar mythology. of "Mathaw" (giant being) and "Komakah" (dwarfs). This paper is going to discuss a possible link of engraved foot-prints.

Preface

SUCH AN IDEA as "Engraved Foot-prints Links of Amas, Hopis and Aborigines" had not occurred to me before I met a messenger of the Hopis, Mr. Craig Carpenter, whom we invited as a special lecturer for a memorial event of Kumagawa Community College on Oct 30 to Nov.1,1997. The reason why I invited him to the event was quite simple. I had grown my interest in cultures of the Hopis since May 1998, when I attended an ARARA Conference at Flagstaff, Arizona, because I was personally invited to Hopi villages at Hotevilla in the four corners district Arizona by Mr. Martin Gesrisuma, one of the chiefs of Hopi Indians. I was invited to some sacred sites of the Hopis to study their rock art descended down long from the earliest days of the Hopis' folklores. I led my J.P.S. party to the Loop Canyon, the Walnut Canyon and the Sheveron Canyon, where long history of the Hopis is kept engraved on rock-walls and altar-rocks.

Foot-prints of MATHAW, the Hopis' FIRST MAN, and a Big Man

WHILE LOOKING at Hopi rock art in the Sheveron Canyon, I remembered what I saw at the Mosman Gorge, Cape York in Cairns, Australia in 1986 during my stay for the IFRAO meeting. I spent one day for an expedition into a rain-forest at Mosman Gorge, 150 miles to the north of Cairns to examine and find some rock art of Aborigines myself. One hour's walk into thick rain-forests took us to the earliest ruins where prehistoric Aborigines used to live. Huge rocks made shelters for them, and there in the shelter, on the rock-wall were a lot of strange figures engraved or painted. It was the first time I saw real foot-prints engraved on the rock, although I had seen similar ones in pictures. Hand-prints and footprints

painted on some rocks were also seen at the ruins in the rain-forest.

The first impression at the rock art of Aborigines had remained deeply, and it flowed out when I looked at the Hopis' rock art in Arizona desert. The Hopis' folklores say, "The first person who appeared on the Arizona desert was a big man named Mathaw. He was sent to this world by Heavenly being. He taught a lot of things to human beings; how to plant seeds, how to grow vegetable, how to make living, where and how to get food and so on". Mr. Craig Carpenter gave a lecture, showing an interesting thing, a rubbed copy of a big foot which scholars and archaeologists of Washington Univ. found left in the field engraved on a rock at a canyon. It was about 15 inches long, 7 inches wide.

MR. CRAIG CARPENTER told me personally over tea in his hotel room, "The Hopi Indians still believe in Mathaw, Big-man and his family alive on the earth and some of Mathaw's family happen to be glanced at in a deep wood or at Himalayan mountains, Japanese mountains, Inner parts of China and soon. The most characteristic feature of their behaviors is that they leave foot-prints of their own engraved or painted on rocks or menhir-stone".

The words of the Hopis' messenger attracted us intensively utmostly when he talked about the wide-spread existence of engraved foot-prints in the world of course in Americas and in Asian continent as well as Australia. similar foot-prints could be seen engraved or painted on rocks. I myself did examine engraved foot-prints at the Mosman Gorge, Cape York, Australia when the IFRAO conference was held at Cairns. I went as far as the gorge with my wife and at a huge rock cave in the rain-forest successfully had a chance of realizing the heritages of Aborigines.

In the United States of America, at the Shevron Canyon, the Loop Canyon and at the Walnut Hill, Arizona, I encountered Hopi's heritages with my 17 colleagues of Japan Petroglyph Society. It was when ARARA (American Rock Art Research Association) held the international conference at Flagstaff, Arizona. And in Hawaiian islands, for these 5 years at least twice a year I make it a rule to visit the islands together with my members and study Hawaiian rock art and petroglyphs, especially on the Big Island of Hawaii, where a lot of engraved foot-prints as well as petroglyphs can be seen.



Foot-prints at Waikoloa King's Trail.

Japanese Foot-prints

It is a remarkable fact that in Japanese islands we have a lot of foot-prints engraved on holy rocks or sacred menhir-rocks at sanctuaries. They used to be called or believed to have been carved in memory of Buddha or a saint called "Daidara-bocchi" which means "a big man and priest". Such foot-prints are popular throughout Japanese islands from Hokkaido to the south-western islands of Okinawa province. It is to be noted that such a naming of engraved foot-steps as "Daidara-bocchi" or "Buddha's Foot" was made after the coming of Buddhism into Japan in the 500's to 600's AD, but the truth is that such foot-prints are much older than the coming of Buddhism we discovered engraved foot-prints without names.

IN THE DISTRICTS where Buddhism was not accepted by native people, such a naming as "Daidara-bocchi" or "Buddha's Foot" does not exist as seen in Tokunoshima Island, but an original naming of Amamiko does exist. "AMAMIKO" is a legendary person who led "Aman" (seafaring people) to the south-western islands of Japan, Amami-ohshima island, Tokunoshima and Okinawan islands in the prehistoric ages. His trace can be found on every step island that exists between Kyushu islands and Ishigaki islands. Effects of Buddhism were so great in Japan that often we are interrupted when we study on ruins and the dates. In another word, "We see a wood, not trees" in a forest of history. Probably we can say that engraved foot-prints that exist at remote places, hills and islands tell us the truth. "Amans" are typical cases which have no relation to Buddhist effects.



Oni's footprint rock at the Tokunoshima islet.

YOU SEE NOW typical foot-prints with co-existent or related rock art. They are of various sizes; from big ones to tiny ones; the biggest is the one engraved on a rock at the Kichiji-pass, Kumamoto pref.



Kichiji-pass foot-print rock, Kumamoto pref.

It is 180cm long and 80cm wide. The most typical tiny ones are to be seen carved on rocks at Ohita pref. Dr. Seigi Okazaki and his colleagues insist that they were engraved in memory of the existence of very small people, "Tsuchi-gumo" (earth spiders) and that those were found at the Tusmagaki-shrine, Karako-shrine and Wakamiya-shrine in Ohita pref., adding that "the clans whose totem deity was Hachiman must have been tiny people. They did move to the east with the belief of Hachiman, which later formed the most powerful religion in Japan, with no less than 200,000 shrines in Japan."



Typical cave-rocks of Tsuchi-gumo(earth-spider clan)

CONCERNING the very small footed deity, the earliest official books of Japanese history,

"Nihon-shoki" and "Kojiki" state, "a very small deity, Sukuna-hiko came drifted on a very small Rama boat. He was as tall as a thumb. After helping the deities found the earliest countries at Izumo, he went into sea and was said to have lived at a certain fairy land."



A tiny foot-prints rock, Yamaguchi-town, Gifu pref.

The Nihonshoki was made in 720 A.D., while the Kojiki was made in 712A.D.in Nara dynasty, which drove the Ezo (Ainu),the Tsuchi-gumo, the Hayato and the Kumaso who had been all the pre-dominant clans, to the remote areas. As to such a tiny people, Tsuchigumo and Kuro-pokkle, Ainus, native people living in Hokkaido, used to have a belief in the existence of aboriginal natives, "Kuro-pokkle" who were as tall as butterbur plant, which grows as high as about 90cm in Hokkaido, although normal ones grow about 50cm high. By the way, the word, "Kuro-pokkle" is an Ainu word, meaning "people under a butterbur."

IN SHIKOKU, the 4th big island in Japan, they have a legend of "Kumpira" or "Kompira" people, who were as tall as 90cm,and had a special skill in building mounds, stone-steps, ponds and a lot of rock formations. The clan seems to have something to do with the Minefuhe or Mihunemia, real small people in Hawaiian islands. According to the book by Dr. Katharine Loumala, there used to live the night-working dwarfs or Menefune in the

Hawaiian Islands. Her book, "The Menehune of Polynesia and other Mythical Little people of Oceania" (published by the Bernice Bishop Museum, Honolulu, 1951), reports how the Menehune excelled in stonework. Most of Hawaiian heiaus, watercourses, fishponds, rock piles, stone canoes, dug caves, forest roads and trails were made by the Menehune. She wrote in her book, "While Hawaii may have had over 15,000 of these mythical men and Kauai, over 500,000 men and women, no information is available to estimate how many Menehune formerly lived on Oahu".



Lava-cave where Menefune used to live.

IT IS AMAZING to see following descriptions, "Story-teller in many parts of the world have in their repertoires tales about tiny people who seem to share many of the same habits and qualities as the oceanic mites. Often they are believed to have preceded the present inhabitants of a region and to have been a race apart from them. Such is the belief among the Ainu of Japan about a clan of little people, "Earth Spiders (tsuchigumo)", "whom subsequent scientific research has suggested to be the ancestors of the Ainu themselves, folklorized and made exaggeratedly small by later narrators. "Earth-spiders (Tsuchi-gumo)" used to be believed to have lived widely throughout Japanese islands, and one of the main

habitats located in northern Kyushu island; between Ohita and Kumamoto pref. there are



lots of dwellings, caves in hills. Sand-rocks were skillfully dug fit to accommodate 20 to 30 people. Recently at the Lonely Peak, Amakusa in Kumamoto pref., we, Japan Petroglyph Society and Municipal Board of Education of Ryudake town, chanced to identify a cave, which 2 local aged men had found during their plays in their boyhood 50 years ago. The cave, dug in the east side of the peak (300m above sea-level) had 3 rooms; 4 meter square one, 6 meters square one and 8 meter square one, each separated by pillars of sand-rock to prevent the ceilings from falling down.

The entrance to a sand-rock accommodation

THE ENTRANCE was about 25cm wide and 70cm high, so even if JPS members tried each in turn to manage to enter it, nobody could go into the enigmatic dwelling. Of course I tried myself in vain. It was evident that very tiny people made such an accommodation cave for themselves in prehistoric ages. Another amazing rock formation of the small people's own making was a heiau typed heritage at Kuradake-town in Amakusa island.



**Kuradake Heiau at Amakusa province,
Kumamoto pref.**

It was just like the ones as seen at the big island of Hawaii. It is about 4 meter high, 25 meter long and 3 meter thick at the bottom.



A Hawaiian heiau; Big Island of Hawaii.

AT FIRST GLANCE, I thought it must be the origin of Hawaiian heiaus. As seen in the famous book, "Hawaiian Petroglyphs" by Prof. Edward Stasack and Prof. Harry Cocks (Hawaii Univ.), "Hawaiian petroglyphs and rock formations were not made by native Hawaiians, but by those who came later to the islands in later stage of prehistoric ages, although their homeland is not known yet. According to legends, they came from the west," which means that if same petroglyphs and heiau typed formations were found some where else in the west of the Pacific Ocean, the place can be one of their homelands, or it

may be one of their habitats which were built on their way to the east. Since such an original type of heiaus does exist at Amakusa, Kumamoto pref., we might be allowed to suppose the Amakusa islands where seafarers used to dwell must have been a homeland of builders of Hawaiian heiaus.

Mihunemia (Minehune) could be the same tribe as the tiny people who made the sand-rock cave at the Lonely Peak, Kuradake-town in Amakusa province. I have typical cases where foot-prints are to be seen on rocks in Japan.

- 1) Foot-prints at Tokunoshima Island, Kakgo-shima pref.:
- 2) Foot-prints at the Saint's Beach, Beppu, Ohita pref., Kyushu:
- 3) Foot-prints at the Kichiji-pass, Gyokuto-town, Kumamoto pref., Kyushu:
- 4) Foot-prints at Mt. Takatsuka, Hitoyoshi-city, Kumamoto, Kyushu:
- 5) Foot-prints at Fujimatsu, Kitakyushu-city, Fukuoka pref., Kyushu:
- 6) Foot-prints at Takenami, Ena-city, Gifu pref., Honshu:
- 7) Foot-prints at Mt. Kasagi, Nakanoho, Ena, Gifu pref.:
- 8) Very small foot-prints at three mountains, Ohita pref.:
- 9) Small foot-prints at Mt. Oshitoishi, Minamioguni town, Kumamoto pref.:
- 10) Tiny foot-prints at the Cape Benten, Hiwasa town, Tokushima pref.:

Foot-prints Linkage Across the Pacific Ocean

It would be an attractive thesis when we adopt the idea of the Hopis' folklore of Mathaw, the Big Man and the story of Daidarabocchi or Oni (Big and extraordinarily powered being) in Japanese folklores.

THE BIG MAN has been chased by an American scholar, Dr. Glover S. Krantz (State University of Washington), who recently released surprising pictures of a big man taking a nap in the field. He has collected about twenty foot-prints of unidentified human-type big men who often looked like big monkeys. If the creature in his pictures were real Big Men and his report were true, we would have a chance to meet such a Big Man in fields, hills or mountains where the foot-prints were discovered. It's a funny story as of a Himalayan Snow Man whom mountaineers sometimes chanced to see. Similar big figures were reported to have been glanced at Mt. Hiva, Hiroshima pref. in Japan about 20 years ago. Mt. Hiva (1279m above sea-level) is full of mythology and legends since prehistoric ages. Here fore nobody suspects such an existence of mysterious beings as look Himalayan Snow Man. It is to be noted that those spots of encounters with Big Men are the rock art sites of engraved foot-prints. And here I add a most interesting story.

The Easter Island, which is famous for Moai has a legend, "before sailors from Europe came there, the island was called Big Island. One day, lots of boats arrived the island. The leader's name was Hotsu Matsuwa. They had left their homeland named Hiwa, although nobody knew where Hiwa was. Those newcomers to the island were killed by the Europeans who landed there on the day of Easter and named the Big Island, the Easter for their memory."

THERE ARE SOME Hiwas in Japan. Hiwa town in Hiwa province, Hiroshima pref. and another Hiwa-sa town, Tokushima pref. What is your opinion to this new shocking reality of Hiwa story? I just remember I once received a letter from Dr. Frank and A.J. Bock (leading scholars of American Rock

Art Research Association) about 10 years ago. The letter included a picture taken on the Easter Island. The both doctors said they inspected a bottom of a rock formation where they found engravings that seemed Japanese letters. They asked me to go over to the rock at the Easter Island and examine it by myself. Because the picture was so dark and I could not recognize the image, but I have been thinking of going to the island and see it myself. Seemingly, some clear links made by seafaring people existed over Pacific Ocean, and the linkage has been alive since prehistoric ages waiting for our decoding its long and romantic enigmas of diffusion and immigration. On Dec.24,1999,a strange rock formation, which looked like a tower, chanced to be discovered by my JPS chater members at Shodo-jima, Kagawa pref.



The tower-shaped rock-formation is about 6 meter high.

AT THE TOP of Mt. Hoshi-ga-jo (star-castle), the mysterious tower stands. Local legends say that it was built by Jinmu-Tenno about 2600 years ago. The builders of the rock formation are said to have been "Komakah" (very small people), which sounds Minehune (Mihunemia) in Hawaiian islands or the tiny people at Amakusa islets who built the sand-rock accommodations. In Okinawa and the Sakijima-shotoh, they have

an old legend that Amamiko, leader of seafaring groups, reached the islands and was naturalized there. Okinawa Governmental Museum keeps 14 stone-tablets with engravings.



One of engraved tablets kept at Okinawa Museum.

Prof. Masaaki Kimura (Ryukyu National Univ.) insisted that they were the story of the earliest legend of Okinawa adding that the engravings must have something to do with the legendary continent of "Mu" that went sank under the sea about 15000 years ago. No scholar knows whether it is true or not, but we can agree that the earliest Amans (sea-people) had cultures of their own creation. Before the Kanji (Chinese letters) officially were adopted in Japan in the 600's A.D., there were many kinds of letters, and each local dynasty used independent letters, of which particular ones are "Ahiru-kusa-moji".



The Ahiru-moji tablet.

THE TABLET shown above used to be conserved at the "San-nyo-jinja" (3 goddesses shrine) at Ajimu, Usa province, Ohita pref. Same letters are kept at the Heitate shrine in Kumamoto pref. and at the Isonokami shrine, Nara, which shows us that the Ahirukusa-moji letters were used commonly in old ages. Another mysterious letter is the one engraved on a rock at Azumi-shrine, Adogawa town, Shiga pref., just near by the Lake Biwa. Few scholars insist that the Pritinis who fled from the sinking Mu continent reached the Lake Biwa and they dwelled there. "The engraving was made as a memory of their homeland of Mu" they say.



The Azumi engravings.

When we talk of "Azumi" (sea-people), we have to remember that the Azumi was the most powerful, dominant clan in old ages before the 600's A.D. "Azumi" whose totem deities were "gods of seas" were so dominant as to provide a lot of boats, fleet, to help the Jingu-kogoh (Empress) to attack Korean dynasties, of which story we can read in the Nihon-shoki and Kojiki, the earliest official history books in Japan. At Ajimu town, which is a direct pronunciation of "Azumi" in Ohita pref. there is a peculiar ruins where 999 phallic stones used to be seen.



Ajimu ruins; Rocks form a big stone-circle.

A LOCAL LEGEND tells, "Once upon a time, a certain god decided to build a capital here He began to throw down rocks. He was going to throw the last one, when a local woman chanced to pass by there. Therefore he had to give up his intention. The 999 rocks are remains of his intention." And there at Ajimu-town, an interesting myth tells, "A big fleet of boats led by three goddesses landed. The goddesses were Tagori-Hime, Tagitsu-Hime and Ichiki-Hime." Still now the three goddesses have been worshipped most in Japan, as "the most powerful deities of the oceans." Now at the end of this paper, please just have a look at the photo below and imagine how Amans, seafaring people in old ages worshipped footsteps.



The zoom-up of the Oni's rock at Tokunoshima islet.

It is probable that the earliest seafaring people made it a rule to have a religious ceremony when they landed an island where they habitated and carved some foot-steps on which their deities were believed to descend. The rock with engraved foot-steps was a holy "yorishiro" with which they thought they were able to contact gods and deities. Same things could be suggested as to the holy foot-prints rocks of the Hopis, Aborigines, Ainus and other Polynesian sea-people. That is why we find so many similar ones.

WHEN WE IMAGINE what kind of creatures was the being who left such a trace of big foot or small foot engraved on rocks, an interesting engraving is to be regarded as a sample. It is the image of "Sun-God" which we, Japan Petrograph Society chanced to find at the top of Mt. Haran, Nynxia, China about 10 years ago. At first glance, it looks like a monkey of the typical mask of Sun God dance at the island of Bali, Indonesia. In Japanese traditional dance, "Kabuki" has similar alternative images, while a very old Chinese legend has the same looking mask of "Son-go-kuh" (monkey magic being who is said to have followed Priest Genjoh as far as to India with other two monster looking beings) helping Genjoh to bring back sutras of Buddhism. "Mathaw" whom the Hopi Indians believe to have come first down to the earth to teach everything to human-beings must have been of the same image, and also "Amamiku" whom the Okinawa-Amami people used to believe the first leader to have come from the fairy land to settled on the Okinawa and Amami islands must have been of the same image. Hawaiian legends state that small people of "Minehune" (Mihunemia) tribe, who consisted of "Mu" and "Wa" clans were very hairy and looked like monkeys. For all their looks, they are said to have excelled in rock art building, just as "Kumpirah" people(very small people) in Shikoku, Japan had very skillful technique in

tone-work. It is very interesting to know that the "Kumpirah" people came from the middle region of the Indus together with the worship in "dragon fish"(a kind of big shark) to settle at the foot of Mt. Kumpirah, Kagawa pref., Japan, where still now pious people gather to worship the totem god of Kumpirah, one of typical sea gods in Japan. In our images of such a legendary being as Mathaw, Minehune, Kumpirah, Tsuchigumo, Oni, Amamiku, Himalayan Snow-man and the latest Monkey-man which was reported recently in India, a common image comes to us. It is very similar to the mask of Sun-God at Mt. Haran, Nynxia, China. By the way, the very image can be seen on the cover picture of this magazine. Anyway, at ending my paper, hereby advocate again that in prehistoric ages, such a mysterious being as was worshipped upon with their foot-print must have existed and that such worship made certain linkages.

At ending this paper

We had a very interesting latest TV news that in India, a certain being of "monkey-man" appeared and injured some people who were asleep on the roofs, which were reported in May,2001,and all over the world the TV news seemed to be broadcasted. Maybe in India, engraved footprints can be seen. The engraved foot-prints may sound romantic ,but now that we find such an engraved foot-print at every legendary ruins, we must make our efforts to find and record more engraved foot-prints with a hypothesis of "foot-print links" of the Hopis, Amas, Aborigines and also in India.

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